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7-6-1958

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Wildlife expert at MSU writers' conference" (1958). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 264.
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July 3, 1958

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JULY 6

WILDLIFE EXPERT AT MSU WRITERS' CONFERENCE

Will Barker, author of "Familiar Animals of America," has been added part-time to the staff of the Montana State University Writers' Conference which takes place on the campus during the week of July 21 through the 26th, according to H.V. Larom, conference director.

"Getting Mr. Barker on the staff was a piece of good luck," Larom said. "He wrote me from Washington, D.C., informing me he would like to drop in at the conference. I found that he had published in "Natural History," "American Forests," "Sports Afield," "Ford Times" and "Sports Illustrated." His book, "Familiar Animals of America," was the January 1957 selection of the Outdoor Life Book Club. Another book, "Winter-Sleeping Wildlife," will be published this August. Although our Conference staff had long since been made up, I wrote to Mr. Barker and he consented to join us part-time."

Larom said that Barker would serve on panel discussions dealing with nonfiction and writing concerning the outdoors. "His work should be authoritative," Larom added, "as Barker has been an editor-writer with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, for which he edited various scientific papers and wrote a number of popular Service publications."

Other writers featured in the nonfiction area include Albert Q. Maisel, who has written more than 350 articles, many of them for the Reader's Digest, and Archie Binns, one of the best known historians in the Northwest.

One of the discussions which will take place on Montana-Northwest Writers' day on July 26 will concern the development of writing in the Northwest during the last 10 years, Mr. Larom said. "This is the tenth anniversary of the conference," he added. "It should be interesting to see what has happened during this period."

Writers taking part in this discussion will include Naomi Lane Babson of Bozeman, whose latest novel, "The Young Fair Maidens," has just been published, and Mildred Walker, formerly of Great Falls. The play made from Miss Walker's novel, "Southwest Corner," will be produced during the week of the 21st by the Montana Masquers summer theatre, and she will discuss it during one of the evening sessions of the Conference.

Costs including private conferences and the reading of one manuscript are \$25 for the entire week, Larom said. Or for those who cannot attend for the full time, admission will be \$5 a day. Mornings will be given over to panel discussions, evenings will be used for talks by the staff members, and afternoons will be used for private conferences. Full information, application blanks and a brochure can be had by writing Larom at MSU.

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